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## BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

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*The Old World in the New.* By EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS. New York: Century Co., 1914. 8vo, pp. 327. \$2.40.

The large public which knows Professor Ross's work has learned to expect at least three things in each new product of his pen—keen observation, skilful generalization, and forceful statement. In this respect the present volume is no disappointment. From a general survey of the field and from the chief sources of information on the subject the author has collected the main facts of immigration to this country into a book that is compact, thought-provoking, and very readable.

Professor Ross first considers the make-up of the original elements of the population of the colonies, showing to what extent they were, to begin with, chosen groups, and how the selective forces of frontier life tended to add numerical strength to the fitter elements. He next takes up in detail the various ethnic groups, giving the salient facts in reference to volume, distribution, etc., and summarizing in a concise and seemingly accurate and impartial manner the outstanding characteristics of each race. Celtic Irish, Germans, Scandinavians, Italians, Slavs, and East European Hebrews are considered in turn, and the lesser immigrant groups are gathered together in a single chapter. As a result of this examination the author concludes that the "new immigration," particularly the Slavs and South Italians, offers much less hopeful material for American citizenship than the old. The Hebrews manifest a diversity of traits, some admirable, and some of dubious value.

The author next passes to a general consideration of the economic, social, political, and racial effects of immigration upon America and the American people. He shows how the conditions of modern life have made immigration much more of a menace than it was fifty or one hundred years ago. The motive of the immigrant is now almost wholly economic, and the demand for immigrants arises from a class which is interested in securing the greatest amount of cheap and easily exploitable labor. The resulting effects upon the standard of living of the wage-earner in this country are deplorable. The introduction of vast numbers of the backward races of Europe is establishing Mediaeval and feudalistic ideas and practices into the United States, as is illustrated by the position and treatment of woman. The great preponderance of males in the

immigrant stream brings many serious evils in its train. In politics, the ignorant and credulous foreigner, needing help, and thinking that he needs protection, furnishes just the sort of material that the ward boss needs for his operations. The effect upon the American physical type of the grade of humanity which makes up a large part of the present immigration current must of necessity be undesirable.

The general conclusions of the author are very decidedly of the sort usually styled "restrictionist." The distinctive features which they present are a fearless dogmatism of statement, and a long look into the future. Professor Ross has his eye, not upon the welfare of this generation or the next, but upon the long vista of generations which are to follow. Perhaps no sentence in the book is more typical than the following: "Not until the twenty-first century will the philosophic historian be able to declare with scientific certitude that the cause of the mysterious decline that came upon the American people early in the twentieth century was the deterioration of popular intelligence by the admission of great numbers of backward immigrants."

In summing up the value and special contribution of this book it may be said that it lies not so much in any new facts brought to light, or any new arguments adduced or conclusions reached, as in its outspoken and impressive emphasis on certain important aspects of the situation which are all too frequently neglected, or handled with diffidence, by writers on the subject.

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*A Financial History of California.* By WILLIAM C. FANKHAUSER. Berkeley: The University of California Press, 1913. Royal 8vo, pp. 311. \$2.50.

This monograph is No. 2 of Vol. III of the University of California Publications in Economics. The author states in his preface that it has been his aim to provide those who desire to inform themselves of the financial history of the state with a systematic arrangement of fiscal facts gleaned from statutes, governors' messages, comptrollers' reports, and similar public documents. His treatment of the subject is, therefore, chiefly narrative and descriptive rather than analytical and critical.

The fiscal history of the state from the Spanish occupation to the present time (1912) is divided roughly into epochs or periods, whose limits are indicated by marked changes in the revenue policy of the state. In each period the author traces the general development of